

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please replace the paragraph starting on page 6, line 16 with the following amended paragraph:**

As a result, in the back and forth direction of the head, modes of the vibrations of the sole portion 5 become close to those on the assumption that the rear edge of the front part 5a is a free end and the front edge is a fixed end as shown in Figs.5(a) and 5(b). Accordingly, the peak frequency is increased when compared with the front part 5a which is made in the same thickness as the back part. The preferable position of the rear edge K of the thick front part 5a may be varied to some extent, depending on the material, shape (size) of the sole portion 5. But, mostly, it may be preferable that the rear edge K (K1, K2, K3) is positioned at around the midpoint of the length  $L_s$  of the sole portion 5 in the back and forth direction.

**Please replace the paragraph starting on page 6, last line with the following amended paragraph:**

In this embodiment, the thick front part 5a and thin back part 5b extend from the toe-side edge to the heel-side edge of the sole portion 5. The rear edge K is substantially straight and substantially parallel with the above-mentioned first vertical plane VP1 when viewed from the upside or underside as shown in Fig.4 by a single-dashed line K1. But, it is also possible to curve the rear edge K concavely in parallel with the clubface as indicated by a double-dashed line K2 or convexly as indicated by a triple-dashed line K3. When curved concavely (K2), a certain frequency may be enhanced. But, when curved ~~concavely~~ convexly (K3), the sound spectrum may be dispersed. When straight (K1), the sound spectrum will take a middle position. In any case, the thickness decreasing from  $t_{1a}$  to  $t_{2a}$  is concentrated on such a straight or curved line ~~K~~ so that the antinode of the vibrations occurs along this line.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A golf club head having a head volume in a range of from 355 to 450 cc and comprising

a hollow body comprising a face portion and sole portion each made of a metal material, the hollow body having a structure producing a ball-hitting sound whose maximum sound pressure level occurs around 6.3 kHz,

said structure including:

said sole portion ~~comprising~~ consisting of a front part and a back part next to the front part, wherein

the front part is thicker than the back part and has a substantially constant thickness of from 1.2 to 1.8 mm, and the decrease in the thickness of the sole portion from that of the front part to that of the back part concentrates near the rear edge of the front part, wherein said back part has a thickness of from 0.7 to 1.8 mm, and the ratio of the thickness of the back part to the thickness of the front part is greater than 0.5 but less than 1; and

the surface area of the sole portion being in a range of from 4000 to 5500 mm<sup>2</sup>.

2. (Currently amended) A golf club head according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 8, wherein the thickness of the back part is from 0.7 to 1.8 mm.

3. (Currently amended) The golf club head according to claim 1, in which ~~the thickness of the front part is from 1.2 to 1.8 mm and~~ the thickness of the back part is from 0.9 to 1.6 mm.

4. (Currently amended) The golf club head according to claim 1, in which the thickness of the front part is from 1.4 to 1.6 mm and the thickness of the back part is at least 0.9 mm ~~and~~ ~~the ratio of the thickness of the back part to the thickness of the front part is greater than 0.5 but less than 1.~~

5. (Previously presented) The golf club head according to claim 4, in which the ratio of the thickness of the back part to the thickness of the front part is greater than 0.8 but less than 1.

6. (Currently amended) The golf club head according to claim 1, 3, 4 or 5, in which the front part extends from the toe-side edge to the heel-side edge of the sole portion.

7. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) The golf club head according to claim 1, in which the front ~~portion~~ part has a rear edge (K) that is substantially straight.

8. (Currently amended) ~~The golf club head according to claim 1, in which~~

A golf club head having a head volume in a range of from 355 to 450 cc and comprising

\_\_\_\_\_ a hollow body comprising a face portion and sole portion each made of a metal material,

\_\_\_\_\_ the hollow body having a structure producing a ball-hitting sound whose maximum sound pressure level occurs around 6.3 kHz,

\_\_\_\_\_ said structure including:

\_\_\_\_\_ said sole portion comprising a front part and a back part next to the front part, wherein

\_\_\_\_\_ the front part is thicker than the back part and has a substantially constant thickness of from 1.2 to 1.8 mm, and the decrease in the thickness of the sole portion from that of the front part to that of the back part concentrates near the rear edge of the front part; and

\_\_\_\_\_ the surface area of the sole portion being in a range of from 4000 to 5500 mm<sup>2</sup>, and

\_\_\_\_\_ the front ~~portion~~ part has a rear edge (K) that is curved convexly toward the club face.

9. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) The golf club head according to claim 1, in which front ~~portion~~ part has a rear edge (K) that is curved concavely toward the club face.

10. (Currently amended) The golf club head according to claim 1, in which the front ~~portion~~ part has a rear edge (K) that is positioned in the middle of the length (LS) of the sole portion in the front-to-back direction.

11. (Currently amended) The golf club head according to claim 1 ~~17~~, in which the front ~~portion~~ part has a rear edge (K) that is positioned in the middle of the length (LS) of the sole portion in the front-to-back direction.

12. (Currently amended) The golf club head according to claim 2, in which the front ~~portion-part~~ has a rear edge (K) that is positioned in the middle of the length (LS) of the sole portion in the front-to-back direction.

13. (Currently amended) The golf club head according to claim 3, in which the front ~~portion-part~~ has a rear edge (K) that is positioned in the middle of the length (LS) of the sole portion in the front-to-back direction.

14. (Currently amended) The golf club head according to claim 4, in which the front ~~portion-part~~ has a rear edge (K) that is positioned in the middle of the length (LS) of the sole portion in the front-to-back direction.

15. (Currently amended) The golf club head according to claim 5, in which the front ~~portion-part~~ has a rear edge (K) that is positioned in the middle of the length (LS) of the sole portion in the front-to-back direction.

16. (Withdrawn) The golf club head according to claim 9, in which the edge (K) is curved in parallel with the club face.

17. (New) A golf club head having a head volume in a range of from 355 to 450 cc and comprising

a hollow body comprising a face portion and sole portion each made of a metal material, said sole portion comprising a front part and a back part next to the front part, wherein said front part is thicker than the back part,

the decrease in the thickness of the sole portion from that of the front part to that of the

back part concentrates near the rear edge of the front part, and said rear edge is curved convexly toward the club face,

said front part has a substantially constant thickness of from 1.2 to 1.8 mm, said back part has a thickness of from 0.7 to 1.8 mm, and the ratio of the thickness of the back part to the thickness of the front part is greater than 0.5 but less than 1,

the surface area of the sole portion is in a range of from 4000 to 5500 mm<sup>2</sup>.